



Alternative Education

Sonoma County
Office of Education

Sonoma County Office of Education
Alternative Education Programs
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July 29, 2021

Dear Alternative Education Families,

We are looking forward to seeing you soon for the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. Classes begin on August 12th and we can't wait to welcome students back to campus! This year presents an exciting chance to reconnect with one another as we return to in-person learning and all the benefits that it offers to students. More information will be coming soon with specific back to school information.

Returning to Full-time In-Person Learning

We will continue to take great measures to keep students and staff safe. Many of the safety measures that were in place last year will continue this year, including hand-washing, enhanced cleaning schedules, and masking for students and staff (while indoors). Medical and educational experts agree that schools are the best and healthiest places for students to learn and succeed, when the right precautions are taken. Social distancing will not be required this year, which means that we can offer full-time, in-person learning for all students.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we are also required to offer an independent study option to students and families to be made available to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian.

State and federal laws require us to inform you of your option to enroll your student in an Independent Study program instead of in-person instruction. This letter also explains:

- Your right to request a parent-teacher conference prior to enrollment to inform your decision.
- The process and your students' rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and re-enrolling in independent study.
- The asynchronous and synchronous instructional time that your student will have access to as part of independent study.

Requesting a Parent-Teacher Conference

It is your right to request a parent-teacher conference prior to enrolling your student in Independent Study in order to inform your decision and ensure that it is appropriate for your student.

Enrolling, Disenrolling & Re-Enrolling

If you determine that you would like to pursue Independent Study, we will guide you in the process for enrolling.

If you enroll in Independent Study and would like to return to in-person instruction, we will guide you in the process for disenrolling.

Once disenrolled, should you need to return to Independent Study you will be required to adhere to the re-enrollment process.

Instructional Time in Independent Study

- For grades 7 and 8, there will be a plan to provide opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction.
- For grades 9 through 12, there will be a plan to provide opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction.

Live interaction means interaction between the student and the teacher or other staff and may include peers. This interaction may be in person, by internet or by phone.

Synchronous instruction means classroom style instruction – small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person or by internet or by phone and involving two-way communication between the student and teacher.

If you are interested in independent study for your student, please complete an online survey by clicking [here](#). Please submit the survey by Wednesday August 4th. If you have any questions or wish to schedule a conference, please contact me by phone at (707) 524-2884 or email at gioakimedes@scoe.org.

Sincerely,



Georgia Ioakimedes, Director
Alternative Education-Student Support Services
Sonoma County Office of Education